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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /088 W
---------- 100062
P 200838Z FEB 74
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMB TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1301
COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN
NAF ATSUGI JAPAN
5AF FUCHU JAPAN
313TH AD KADENA
USARBCO FORT BUCKNER
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
3MAF CAMP COURTNEY
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
MCAS FUTENMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 067
E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: P-3 CONSTRUCTION AT KADENA UNDERWAY
SUMMARY: THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NAVY P-3'S AT KADENA IS UNDER-
WAY AND THE RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION AT FUTENMA LARGELY COMPLETED, SO

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FAR WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT LEFTIST DEMONSTRATIONS. END SUMMARY.
1. EARLIER IT APPEARED THAT OKINAWAN LEFTISTS, AND ALSO LOCAL
OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL HUES, MIGHT PROTEST OR FORCIBLY
INTERFERE WITH THE LONG AWAITED JFAP CONSTRUCTION AT THE USMC
FUTENMA AND USAF KADENA AIRFIELDS. THE REFORMIST PARTIES AND
LOCAL PRESS HAVE CONDEMNED THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE P-3'S
AND NAVY AND USMC JET FIGHTERS AT NAHA AIRFIELD AS A SUPPOSED
VIOLATION OF THE REVERSION AGREEMENTS. JUDGING FROM THE USUAL
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LEFTIST RESPONSE, HOWEVER, IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THEY WOULD

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ALSO QUICKLY PROTEST THE ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION AS ALLEGED "REINFORCING" OF THE BASE STRUCTURE.
2. WHEN P-3'S MADE PRACTICE APPROACHES TO FUTENMA AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR, THE GINOWAN MAYOR LED DELEGATIONS TO THE DEFENSE FACILITIES BUREAU TO PROTEST P-3'S BEING "BASED" AT FUTENMA. BOTH THE DFAB AND USMC, AND WE ALSO IN OFFICE CALLS ON THE MAYOR, EMPHASIZED THERE WAS NO PLAN FOR P-3'S TO BE STATIONED AT FUTENMA AND RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION WAS FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY. THIS HAS LARGELY, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY, STILLED THE PROJECTS FROM GINOWAN. THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR INTERFERENCE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION, WHICH FORTUNATELY TAKES PLACE OUT OF SIGHT FROM

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PUBLIC ROADS. THE NIHON HODOO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FROM THE MAINLAND HAS, ACCORDING TO THE USMC AUTHORITIES, DONE THE OVERLAY WORK WITH ADMIRABLE COMPETENCY AND SPEED. 7000 FEET OF THE RUNWAY WILL BE OPEN MARCH 1 AND THE FINAL WORK SHOULD BE FINISHED ON SCHEDULE BY JUNE 1.
3. THE POSSIBILITY OF LEFTIST INTERFERENCE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AT KADENA HAD BEEN TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY BY THE DFAB, AND APPEARS TO BE THE MAJOR REASON THEY MOVED SO DELIBERATELY ON PREPARING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION IN RECENT MONTHS. THE CONSERVATIVE KADENA MAYOR MAINTAINED THAT HE WOULD BE FORCED TO PARTICIPATE WITH LEFTISTS IN OBSTRUCTION OF THE P-3 WORK UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT MADE CONSPICUOUS EFFORTS TO HELP THE KADENA VILLAGERS WITH DEVELOP-MENT NEEDS AND BASE PROBLEMS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE US-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE JAN 30 OF BASE RELEASES INCLUDED THE SIGNIFICANT AREA OUT OF THE AMMO STORAGE AREA FOR KADENA VILLAGE. THE MAYOR ON FEB 13 INDICATED TO US THAT THIS SATISFIED HIS LOCAL POLITICAL PROBLEM AND THAT HE EXPECTED NO FORCEFUL PROTESTS FROM HIS VILLAGE. THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION WORK ON SITE AT KADENA ALSO BEGAN. CON-SIDERABLE EARTHMOVING HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AROUND THE PLANNED RAMP SAPCE. COINCIDENTALLY THERE IS ALSO HEAVY

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CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY PASSING ALONG THE
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VILLAGE AND BASE EDGE, BUT EVEN AMYOPIC LEFTISTS CAN NOW SEE THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE P-3'S UNDERWAY ON BASE. DESPITE THIS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR PRESS ATTENTION YET. THE DFAB EXPECTS THE FIRST PHASE TO BE FINISHED ON SCHEDULE IN OCTOBER AND THE SECOND FINAL PHASE IN MARCH 1975.
4. COMMENT: THE LEFTISTS MAY YET SWITCH THEIR ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT, BUT SO FAR ALL IS GOING WELL. JUDGING FROM THE EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE ON THE FUTENMA AIRSTRIP WORK, THERE SEEMS NO REASON

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YET TO FEAR THAT THE KADENA P-3 FACILITY CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT BE
COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE.
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